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Department of State

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INCOMING TELEGRAM EXCISE

PAGE 01 SAN SA 07782 162257Z 2631

ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 ICA-11 DODE-00
NSC-05 NSAE-00 SY-05 PM-09 PA-01 MCT-02 SP-02
SPRS-02 /079 W

----------007444 170918Z /21

R 161352Z OCT 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6098
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PAN/INTAFF

POL 13-11

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 7782

E. O. 12065: GDS 10/14/87 (TOMCHIK, STEPHEN J.) OR-P
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES
SUBJ: ASSASSINATION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

b-1
A-9

A SOURCE [redacted] INFORMED EMBASSY THAT AT 7:30 A.M. OCTOBER 14, JOSE OSCAR CHAVEZ, ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER OF THE SALVADORAN NATIONAL LOTTERY WAS ASSASSINATED. HE WAS REPORTEDLY GUNNED DOWN BY UNKNOWN PARTIES AS HE LEFT HIS HOME IN THE SAN MIGUELITO AREA OF SAN SALVADOR. INFORMATION OBTAINED BY POST INDICATES THAT THE VICTIM WAS AN UNCLE OF SATFOREIGN MINISTER FIDEL CHAVEZ MENA.

HINTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY R. Valas DATE 10/14/87
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☒ in part
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS b-1 A9

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89
Ø POL 13 EXCISE

CONFIDENTIAL

DETAILED EVIDENCE OF GOVERNMENT VIOLENCE
AGAINST NON GUERRILLA ELEMENTS

Most of the 20,000 or more deaths in El Salvador within the past 18 months cannot be attributed with any degree of reliability. In its weekly reports on violence, the Embassy has been unable to identify the majority of the victims or the affiliation of those who did the killing. Specific detailed evidence is lacking on virtually all cases, but there are certain notorious cases of violence by Government elements against non-guerrilla elements.

Soyapango (working-class suburb of the capital) April 7, 1981. Thirty civilians were killed by the Treasury Police. Witnesses claim that 23 men were dragged from their homes and shot and another seven shot inside their homes when they resisted. The official explanation was that the patrol was conducting house-to-house searches for leftist guerrillas and was fired upon; the 30 civilians were killed in the firefight. The Embassy after a careful investigation characterized the official report as not credible.

Armenia, July 30, 1981. Twenty-three or perhaps more residents of this town, some 25 miles west of the capital, were dragged from their homes after curfew, killed and their bodies dumped in nearby areas. The incident is believed to have grown out of a dispute at an army checkpoint. The victims were members of a local soccer team and their families. Witnesses identified the Army as perpetrators of the massacre. [redacted]

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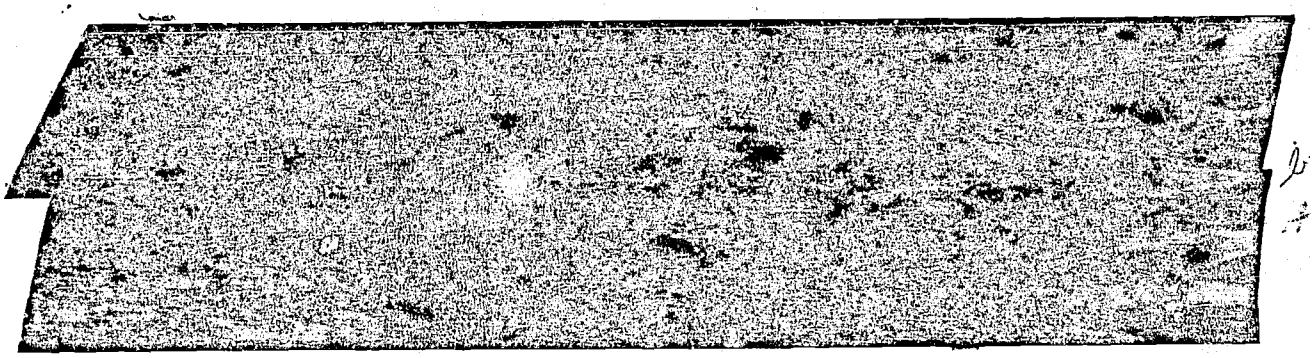
Murder of four American women, night of December 2-3, 1980. This is the most notorious instance of violence by security forces at least in the US. The three nuns and a lay missionary were killed by members of the Guardia Nacional. Six members of the Guardia have been detained for involvement in the murders. FBI assistance in ballistic and fingerprint identification were instrumental in the detention. The case is bogged down since evidence of this type is not admissible and there are no witnesses against the Guardia members. Embassy has no evidence that orders for the murder came from high levels within the Guardia, but it is unlikely that guilt is limited to the six detained. A low ranking individual of the National Police might be linked to these murders.

Murder of six opposition leaders, November 27, 1980. Six leaders of the broad-front opposition group, the Revolutionary

Democratic Front, were kidnapped on November 27, 1980 as they were about to hold a new conference at the San Jose High School in San Salvador. [redacted] within a couple of hours of their abduction confirmed [redacted] that the six were in government custody. The bodies of the six were later found at a lake near El Salvador's interntaional airport, east of the capital San Salvador. The bullet-ridden corpses showed signs of torture, dismemberment and strangulation.



Drafted:ARA/CEN:JGormley;CThomas
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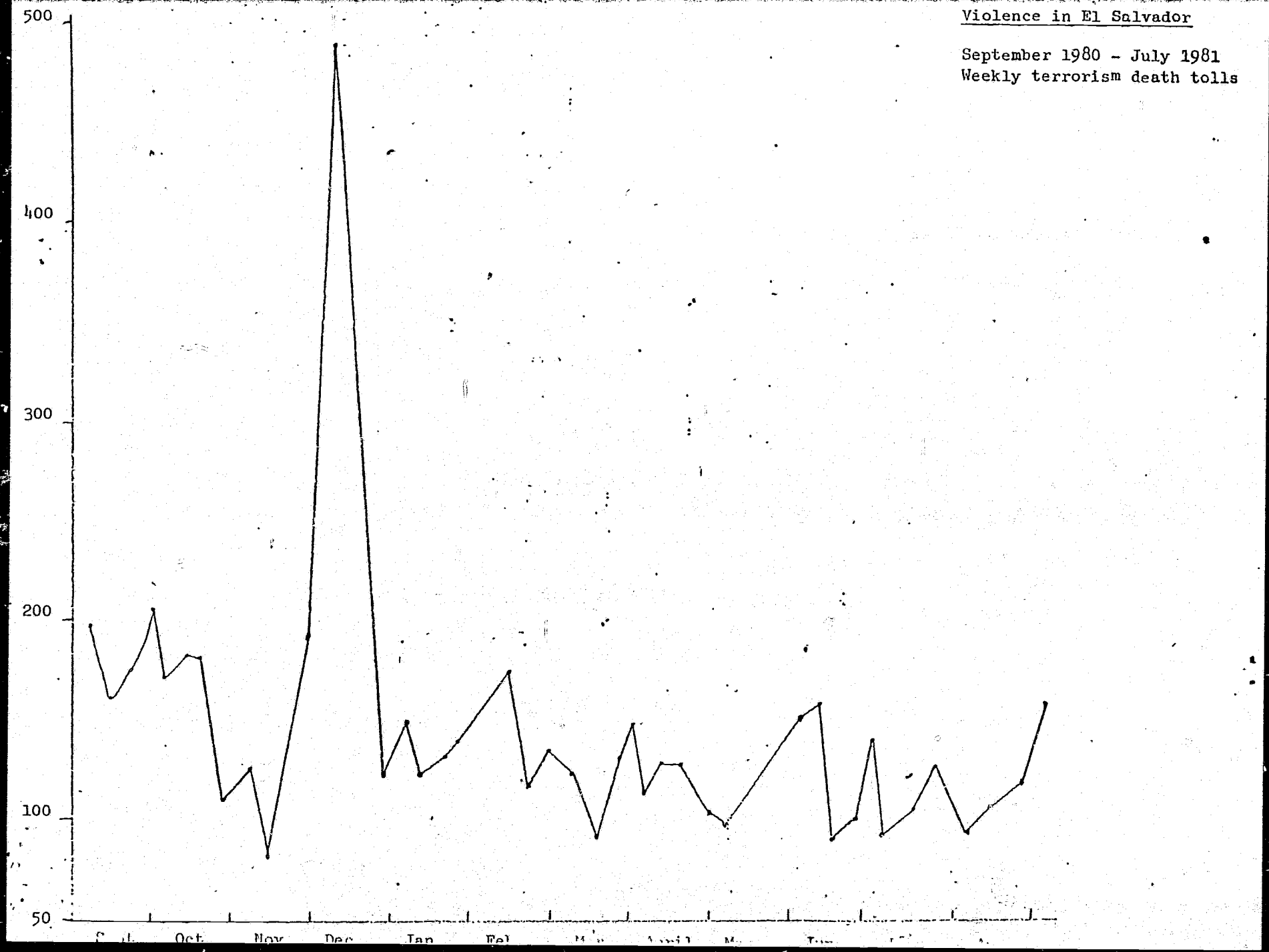
ARA/AND:JBell
Disc:Director/Mary 2
Subj:ESviolence


Violence in El Salvador
September 1980 - July 1981
Weekly terrorism death tolls
500
400
300
200
100
50
Oct.
Nov.
Dec.
Jan.
Feb.